



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. 09/171,910
Applicant(s): DIRK VAN DIJK, ET AL.
Filed: May 13, 1999
TC/A.U. 1772
Examiner: Alicia Chevalier
Title: PLASTIC-BASED COMPOSITE PRODUCT AND METHOD AND
APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING SAME

Confirmation No.: 8639

Docket No.: VR2-002 (044186.003)
Customer No.: 25461

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Sir:

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In the Statement Of Reasons For Allowance set forth in the Notice of Allowability of February 11, 2004, Claim 56 is summarized instead of presenting a verbatim copy of the text of Claim 56. The "summary" of Claim 56 leaves out a number of important details, and, therefore, applicants feel compelled to point out that a feature of the present invention is that Claim 56 as allowed refers to particles comprising wood; that is, the particles can contain other components in addition to the wood particles.

A second feature of the allowed Claim 56 is that the product has a chosen principal product direction.

Other features include that the product is elongated and the chosen principal product direction is the longitudinal direction of the product.

With regard to the reference discussed in the "Statement of Reasons for Allowance", namely, the *Cogswell* patent (US 4,559,262), this reference discloses the fabrication of an intermediate product, in the form of a reinforced sheet or band of impregnated filaments. The

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Susan J. Revell

impregnated products are chopped into pellets or granules in which the aligned fibers have length from 3 mm up to 100 mm. These may be used in conventional molding or extrusion processes; see, col. 7, lines 34-53. As described in col. 9, line 48, the product suitable for injection molding may be used directly or may be blended with pellets of another thermoplastic product. This other product may contain reinforced fibers up to about 0.25 mm long; see, col. 9, lines 30-65. The intermediate product in the form of pellets will assume a random orientation in the process of molding the final product as is also clear from col. 10, lines 1-8 and lines 22, 23. Also, *Cogswell* fails to disclose long fibers that are randomly oriented.

It is, therefore, believed that, as a result of the differences between *Cogswell* and the present invention, the record shows that the claimed invention herein would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person skilled in the art to which the claimed subject matter pertains.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan J. Revell (Depositor's name)
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May 5, 2004 (Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/171,910	03/18/1999	DIRK VAN DIJK	VR2-002	8639

TITLE OF INVENTION: PLASTIC-BASED COMPOSITE PRODUCT AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING SAME

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$0	\$665	05/11/2004

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
CHEVALIER, ALICIA ANN	1772	428-114000

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Tech-Wood International Ltd.

St. Peter Port, Guernsey, United Kingdom

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By: **Robert G. Wellacher, Reg. No. 20,548,351**

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